

CAI 22
-82 H011



3 1761 11971093 7

Government
Publication

~~1961 Census Tract~~

1982-65

FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL MINISTERS OF HEALTH MEETING

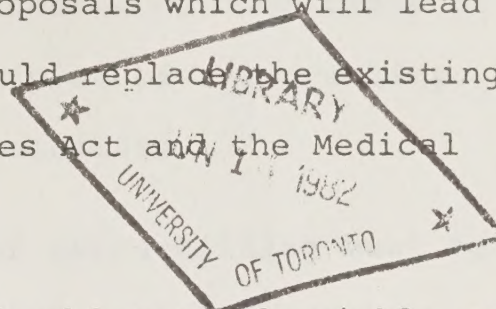
CA1

Z2

- 82 H011

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Federal, Provincial and Territorial ministers of health met in Ottawa May 26, 1982 to discuss proposals which will lead to a new Canada Health Act. This Act would replace the existing Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act and the Medical Care Act.



Ministers agreed that discussions should proceed quickly at both the ministerial and official levels. The objective of the process will be to complete discussions as soon as possible. The federal minister expressed the wish to table new legislation before Parliament in 1983, with corresponding provincial legislative changes to be made if necessary. However, there was a commitment by the Ministers to allow the discussions to take as long as reasonably necessary to reach a consensus.

Ministers asked the Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health to determine the best means of ensuring that provincial and federal officials start work immediately on the clarification of the federal proposals and of alternative suggestions.

Provincial ministers received the initial federal proposals in a spirit of cooperation and agreed to discuss them with their own governments prior to the next Conference of Federal and Provincial ministers. All noted the constraints imposed on health insurance programs by current economic difficulties and by recent changes in intergovernmental fiscal transfers.



After a day of discussion, the ministers, while recognizing that some disparities still exist among provinces in the range of services available, emphasized their pride in Canada's health insurance system. They stressed their continuing commitment to high quality care and to the basic principles of universality, portability, comprehensiveness and accessibility.

The ministers agreed that control of extra-billing must be addressed in order to protect accessibility. On the question of "user charges" it was agreed that a study would be undertaken to define the term and determine their impact on accessibility.

In conclusion they expressed their determination to approach discussions over the next several months in a spirit of openness and cooperation.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2023 with funding from
University of Toronto

